

A

ṣ'ẹ̄ l̄ọ sọ́jâ lǎǎ Sē ẹ̄ lọ sọ́jà nì àna? Did you (pl.) go to the market yesterday?

B

bẹ̀nī ā l̄ọ Bẹ̀nì a lọ. Yes, we went.

B. NOTES

1. First plural and second plural. Subject pronouns, ā and ẹ̄.

Compare these forms:	mō l̄ọ	'I went'
	ō l̄ọ	'you (sg.) went'
	ā l̄ọ	'we went'
	ẹ̄ l̄ọ	'you (pl.) went'

The element ā here stands for a first person plural subject (i.e. 'we'), while ẹ̄ stands for a second person plural subject (i.e. 'you'). The subject element ẹ̄ may also be used as a mark of respect when speaking to only one person.

2. 'Assimilation' with ṣé.

Notice that the vowel of the element ṣé has again been 'assimilated' to the vowel which follows it: ṣé ẹ̄ l̄ọ = ṣ'ẹ̄ l̄ọ.

3. Tones of nī: mid or second depending on environment. Alternation of mid and second tones.

dáǎdá nī	'it is good'
àlááfíà nì	'it is health'

The word nì has mid tone in some environments, and second tone in others. A syllable which in other environments has mid tone, has second tone when it stands immediately after a syllable

with low tone. Mid tone does not occur under these circumstances. Mid and second tones do however contrast with one another in some environments. In this book, second tone after low or falling tone is written with a macron (\bar{a}), and treated as though it were mid.

C. Exercises.

Practice the following pairs of expressions so that when you hear the first you can respond immediately with the second.

1. First person plural vs. second person plural.

a.	$\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	b.	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{b}\bar{e}\bar{e}\bar{n}\bar{i} \bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
	$\bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$			

2. First and second persons, singular and plural.

a.	$\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	b.	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{b}\bar{e}\bar{e}\bar{n}\bar{i} \text{ m}\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
	$\bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$		$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{b}\bar{e}\bar{e}\bar{n}\bar{i} \bar{a} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
	$\text{m}\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$			
	$\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{m}\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$			

3. Assimilated vs. non-assimilated pronunciations.

$\text{ɛ}'\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
$\text{ɛ}'\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{o} \text{ l}\bar{o}$
$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$	$\text{ɛ}'\bar{e} \text{ l}\bar{o}$

D. Supplementary material

1. Days of the week.

ṙjṙ́ ṙ́jímô / ṙjṙ́ ẹ̀tì	Friday
ṙjṙ́ ṙ́sátíde / sátíde	Saturday
ṙjṙ́ `sīnmī / ọ̀sẹ̀	Sunday
ṙjṙ́ kīnī ọ̀sẹ̀ / mṙ́ndé	Monday
ṙjṙ́ kéjì ọ̀sẹ̀	Tuesday
ṙjṙ́ kẹ̀tā ọ̀sẹ̀	Wednesday
ṙjṙ́ kẹ̀rīn ọ̀sẹ̀ / àlámísí	Thursday

Other words are sometimes used for the days of the week, but these are probably the most widely known.

ṙjṙ́ ṙ́jímô	ṙ́ ọ̀ lṙ́ sójâ lṙ́jṙ́ ṙ́jímô	Did you go to the market on Friday?
rára.	sátíde nī mṙ́ lṙ́	No, Saturday was [when] I went.
sátíde	ṙ́ ọ̀ lṙ́ sójâ nī sátíde	Did you go to the market on Saturday?
rára.	ṙjṙ́ `sīnmī nī mṙ́ lṙ́	No, Sunday was [when] I went.

etc.

Use each of the other days of the week in the first of these two sentences. In the second sentence of each pair, use the name of the following day.

Compare the deliberate and casual equivalents:

ní ṙjṙ́ ṙ́jímô lṙ́jṙ́ ṙ́jímô 'on Friday'

Again, the high tone of the verb (here, ní) is found both in deliberate and in casual style. The vowel quality i, present in the deliberate form, is absent in the casual. Note that this apparent

'loss' of a mora is possible only when the following word begins with a vowel. No elision is possible, for example, with sátìdé, for which deliberate and casual styles both have nísátìdé.

2. 'Elision' with nī.

ṣ'ẹ̀ l̄ s'ójâ l'ój'ó ʔjím'ó	Did you (pl. or respectful) go...?
r'ará. s'átìdé l'ā'·l̄	No, we went on Saturday.

As in the preceding exercise, substitute pairs of consecutive day-names in these two sentences.

Compare the deliberate and casual equivalents:

nī ā l̄	l'ā'·l̄	'was [when] we went'
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The 'elision' which is represented by these plural forms does not take place in the singular because the subject pronoun mō begins with a consonant.

UNIT 3

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'Good evening'

	A	
ìr'òl'ẹ̀		evening
ẹ̀kúr'òl'ẹ̀ ǝ	Ẹ̀kúr'òl'ẹ̀ ǝ!	Good evening.
	B	
ǝ	ǝ.	(courteous response to a number of different greetings)
	A	
àár'ò		morning